



Island visitors learn about Aruban patriotism and culture at La Cabana

The Aruban people are proud of their culture and traditions, and the Social Committee of La Cabana, consisting of the employees, decided to acquaint island visitors and residents with some of these aspects of island life during a fair conducted at the resort on Friday evening, in honor of Himno y Bandera Day.

It was a full afternoon and evening of entertainment with a distinctly Aruban flair, beginning at 4:PM with one of Aruba's premiere entertainers, Claudius Phillips and his band Oreo. Claudius is also a noted composer of many of Aruba's Carnival songs, and has been frequently crowned the Carnival Roadmarch and Calypso King.

A division of the Boy Scouts of Aruba, the Land and Sea Scouts hoisted the flag as Jack Tromp sang the national anthem "Aruba Dushi Terra."

Several times the evening, the dance group called "Nos Cultura" demonstrated the various dances of the region, some of them having been practiced for centuries. Dressed in native costume, they reenacted the traditional waltzes and tumbas performed by their island ancestors, to music by noted composers Rufo Wever and Tino Ruiz. Interspersed with their performances were informative dissertations about Aruba's history and culture by Master of Ceremonies Shon Pe Krozendyk, well known to La Cabana guests in his every day position as security manager.

While enjoying all the entertainment around the La Cabana pool deck, attendees were able to shop for handicrafts, art and tee shirts, get temporary tattoos and enjoy a potent and colorful island concoction devised by the La Cabana bartenders to honor the day. A long line of tourists and islanders alike waited for Nilda, the third floor supervisor and her cohorts to dish out "Stoba Cabrito" with funchi and pan bati, amongst other traditional island foods, which everyone reports was excellently prepared and surprisingly delicious. Many of those that filled the pool deck to capacity for the festive evening revealed that they are long time visitors to the island, such as the Nutters and Millers of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. They visit Aruba annually, always at this time of the year, and last year participated in a skit put on by La Cabana for the holiday. They confessed that even though they have been visiting Aruba for nearly twenty years, and staying months at a time, Friday night was a first time for them to try "Stoba Cabrito," and they were very pleased by this new, delicious discovery.

Members of the social committee revealed that the "Himno y Bandera Feria" was organized and executed entirely by the staff of La Cabana as they wished to share their island and its culture, typified by traditional music, dances, and food with those that are here for only a brief visit. It was an enjoyable revelation for many, particularly for the children that learned to "Fly like a butterfly" with the Nos Cultura dancers.